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assurance born of German rationalism the writer resolves Eden, the fall, the six days, and almost everything else in that most sober and literal of narratives into myth, allegory, and concludes as "the result of sober and reverent criticism" that the narrative of God's meeting and converse with Abraham is a Hebrew Idyl. The mistakes of theologians of the orthodox school figure largely in this book. It may be that to other eyes than the writer's, the baseless assumptions and vagaries of an irreverent criticism stand out quite as clearly. The book may serve its purpose in presenting, in a most fascinating style, theories of what the Hebrew traditions *ought* to teach according to the opinion of an idealistic philosopher. The last chapter, which develops the idea that the great teaching of the Hebrew race to the world was the importance of the inner life, exhibits the author at his best, who in the treatment of historical facts and statements seems to be lacking in the homely virtue of common-sense.

HEROES OF HEBREW HISTORY.*

The perennial beauty and freshness of this series of sketches is our excuse for bringing it to the attention of readers. They are not critical or deeply learned but designedly popular in matter and style. They were written for *Good Words*, and have been since published in book form, of which this volume is a new edition. Ministers who are anxious to obtain a model in homiletic treatment of Old Testament characters would do well to possess themselves of this volume. Bishop Wilberforce always wrote and spoke with great eloquence, but the union of beauty, strength and sweetness in these biographical discourses gives them a peculiar charm. He invests old and well-known scenes and characters with a new interest by the power of sympathy with both their surroundings and their thoughts and feelings.

The first sketch is that of Abraham, and the last deals with Elisha. It is specially instructive to notice how careful and extended knowledge of antiquities and acquaintance with the latest views concerning the subjects of his discourse are so intimately woven into the narrative, and the whole lighted up with a glow of genuine eloquence and spiritual fervor, that the reader is instructed while charmed and elevated and stimulated while carried along unweariedly by the sustained vigor of the style. An abstract of the volume would be impossible.

➤REVIEW NOTICES.<

The *Bibliotheca Sacra*† in its January number contains two articles which come within the scope of our review. Professor Curtiss presents the first of a series of "Sketches of Pentateuch Criticism." Our sympathies are at once interested by the following sentences from his introduction: "Not all can pursue these studies.

* *Heroes of Hebrew History*. By the late SAMUEL WILBERFORCE, D. D. New Edition. London, 1879; Doldy, Isbister & Co.; New York: Scribner and Welford. 7x5. Pp. 368.

† *The Bibliotheca Sacra*. Editors: G. F. WRIGHT, JUDSON SMITH, W. G. BALLENTINE. Vol. XLI. Jan. 1884. Oberlin, Ohio: E. J. Goodrich. \$3.00 per year.

1. Sketches of Pentateuch Criticism, by Rev. S. Ives Curtiss, D. D.

4. Proposed Reconstruction of the Pentateuch: Deuteronomy and the Related Codes, by Prof. Edwin C. Bissell, D. D.